Copied from

(15) 1955-56 **File No.** MBC 3033-

RHMBC **DEPARTMENT**

'E' **BRANCH**

Subject:— Tribes Advisory council's Fifth meeting of — Executive of development works in Backward areas — and allied matters

p 26 (t)

File No

Std. Sectt. Slip 24

Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department.

In the fifth meeting of the Tribes Advisory Council held on 24/9/1955 several complaints were made in regard to the manner in which the local development works were being executed in the Backward Areas. In particular , the following allegations were made:-

1) Popular contribution was being recovered from the Backward Classes In the locality at the same rate as was recovered from other villagers. The B.Cs. being general ly very poor, it was unfair to tax them to the same extent as the other villagers who were relatively well -off. The contribution should be based on the capacity of the individual villagers to bear their share.

2) Where the Backward Classe were unable to pay their contribution in cash, they were told to pay contribution in the form of labour. They were employed as paid labourers, but were not given full wages. Generally 50% of the normal wages were ~~treated~~ as their contri bution. As the Backward Classes were generally living a hand to mouth existence, underpayment of wages caused them considerable hardships.

paid to them and the remaining 50% were treated

3) In many cases, labour was imported from outside The imported labourers in many cases belonged to the Backward class They were also paid less than the normal wages and the difference between the normal wages and the wages actually paid to them was treated as their contribution. This was fundamentally contrary to the popular contribution scheme. The idea underlying the scheme is that the popular contribution should come forth from the villagers in the locality who are expected to be benefitted under the works paying outside labourers who cannot be expected to derive any benefit from such works amounts to their exploitation.

To recover contribution by underpaying

4) Most of Backward Classes are landless labourers. The direct benefit of some local works like tanks and bandharas accrued to persons who owned land and not to the farm labourers. To recover contribution from such farm labourers by underpayment of wages amounted to their explortation.

5) There was great delay in the payment of wages.

2/. The additional Development Commissioner who was present at the meeting explained that the procedure for the payment of Government grant on the works had recently been revised procedure, there should be no cause for complaint regarding delay in payment since an amount equal to 1/3rd of the estimated cost of the work is placed at the disposal of the villagers before commencement of the work. After commencement, another instalment of a grant equal to 1/3rd of the estimated cost is paid and the balance is paid after the work is completed according to the type designes etc. As the vilagers have the necessary m-oney with them, they should be in a position to pay wages to the labourers and there should be no reason for delay in payment. With regard to recovery of popular contri-bution and under payment of wages, he explained that these works were executed on grant in aid basis. Sanction to the work and to the payment of grant was accorded after the community project or N.E.S. Administration, as the case may be, was satisfied that the work was necessary and that the requisite po pular contribution was forthcoming. The NES, or Community Project Administration

should not enquire

could not enquire in to how the popular contribution was collected or used nor would it be desirable for it to do so. If such enquiries are to be made, it would amount to interfering in the internal administration of the village Committees. This may result in slowing down the programme. Most of these works were started as a result of the initiative of social workers who could trusted to give a fair deal to the labourers. He was of the opinion that it would not be proper for the Community project or N.E.S. Administration to enquire into how the popular contribution was collected and whether the labourers received their normal wages.

3. The Council was unanimously of the view that the N.E.S. Administration ought to ensure that unfair means were not resorted to while collecting popular contribution and that the labourers were at least paid their due wages The Council suggested that before paying the last instalment of grant at least an enquiry should be made whether the labourers received their due wages in cases where a cut in their wages was made, they had agreed to the cut not under duress but from their free volition. As the Addl. Development Commissioner was opposed to the suggestion, it was decided that the question should be submitted to Government for orders.

4. Government orders are solicited.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL

MKP.27.8

26/9/1955

Attention is invited to proceedings of the Tribes Advisory Council at paragraphs 1 to 3 above. The additional Development Commissioner has spoken to me and generally confirms the position stated in the above note.

Points (3) and (4) raised at the meetins of the Tribes Advisory Council are the real issues which let to a lengthy debate. The question is important and this Department is of the view(which is strengthened by the unanimous opinion of the Tribes Advisory by the N.E.S. orC.P.A. to stop these unfair practices where ever they exist. One way of doing so would be to ask the Project or Block Development Officer to supervise the payment of wages to labour employed in particular works and see:

(Council) that some means must be devised

a) that the reductions applied were uniform, and

b) that they were not made applicable to labour imported from outside the village in which a particular work was in progress.

I am unable to appreciate how any probe of this nature would be resented as interference and thus retard the progress of work. If any insistence on fair practice leads to delays I should think the delay would be worth suffering. The matter assumes greater importance in the light of our recent decision to entrust to Project Officers the digging of wells in Backward areas (vide Government Circular, L.S.G.& P.H.D.No.BCC-1155, dated the 23rd August 1955) and also in the light of the possible integration of N.E.S. and Backward Class Welfare work during the Second Five Year Plan.

Approval of Government ~~of~~ is solicited to the issue (after due investigation) of a directive to the N.E.S. of C,P.A.to ensure that unfair means were not resorted ~~resorted~~ to while collecting popular contributions and that all persons engaged on work were paid their due wage.

Sd/-
29/9/55

A.D.C.

C.S.

Dy.M(B.C.)
M. (B.C.).
C.M.

In view of para 2 of the Rehabilitation,Housing and Backward Classes Department note at pages 2-3- ante, it will be seen that the complaints of use of unfair means and/or harassment of backward classes made in the meeting of the Tribes Advisory Council are, in fact, complaints against social workers and leading villagers who form the village ad hoc committees, and are entrusted with execution of local development, N.E.S. and CD works . In the Council Meeting, I felt that some of the members of the Council were of the opinion that these works were carried out by Government as departmental works and that payment of wages to the labourers was to be made by Government. I, therefore, explained the basis of grant in aid works and how it was convenient for the ad hoc committees to make payments, wherever necessary, to the labourers. However, as the Council has suggested that, before the final payment is made, it should be enquired whether (i) the labourers have been paid their due wages and (ii) in cases in which a cut intheir wages has been made, they have voluntarily agreed to the cut, it is desirable to ascertain whether and to what extent such unf air

unfair means are resorted to. Otherswise, apart from the delay that is likely to be expressed by the village committee caused on the final payment and resentment likely to be a great injustice will be done to the village committees in assuming that unfair means are used in a large number of cases.

2/ As I stand second to none in protecting and promoting the welfare of backward classes, I thought it advisable to ascertain the extent of evil complained against. I, therefore made enquiries with some of the Collectors and other officers and some members of the Legislative Assembly whom I happened to meet. These enquiries did not indicate that the complaints were generally true and that the remedy suggested would not only hamper the progress of work but would cause inconveniemce to the backard classes themselves. It would therefore, be advisable to collect the following informationin t is respect:-

1) Whether the Backward Class Department has received or come to know of any such complaints during last 2 years.

2) Whether the Director of Backward Class Welfare has received or come to know of any such cases and, if so how many and from that places?

3) Whether the District Backward Class Welfare Officers have received or come to know of any such cases and, if so, how many and at what places? What action, if any, was taken by them in respect of such complaints and with what results?

4) the District Backward Class Welfare Officers should be asked to contact the members of the Tribes Advisory Council from their respective districts and obtain from them lists of cases in which the backward Classes were exploited or harassed and, after making personal enquiries into such cases. send a report to Government through the Collectors of the districts.

3. On receipt of the above information it will be possible to ascertain the nature and extent of harassment complained of, and devise suitable ways and means to protect the interests of the backward classes. If instructions are issued, as suggested by the Tribes Advisory Council, without ascertaining the facts, we shall be doing great injustice to thousands of village committees, who have voluntarily come forward to undertake the executions, works and raise necy. Popular contribution In fact, one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly whom I met said that, if the actual situation was as complained of by the Tribes Advisory Council Matters would have come to crisis long ago.

4. I spoke on phone to Jt.Secy.RH&BCD on this matter As desired by him the case is returned to him.

12/ 10/55.
Jt. Secy. R.H.&.B.C.D.

A letter explaining the positions to asking him to make enquiries of the mentioned above in the para2 of the ADC's munite should issue to the DBCW and the Director should fr respect within a fortnight.

Assistant Secretary.
14/10

Jt. Secretary may see this file for information.

2. I have gone thro gh the reports sent by the Backward Welfare Department so far. Generally no complaint about the recovery of excess popular contribution or injustice resulting thereby have been received either by the B.C.W.D or by the Collector or the Community Project Officer, However, it would be seen that in the Ahmednaga Panch Mahals, and, and Broach distticts, outside labour was employed and it was given less wages than what should ordinaryly have been given. It would also be seen from the report of the B.C.W.D. Nasik that popular contribution at a flat te of 50% was recovered from the public both backward as well as non backward-in the scheduled and backward areas as well. This woule apparently be inconsistent with the recent P&SD orde s under which popular contribution has been reduced to 25% in areas where the B.C. population exceeds 60% oft e total population.

3. We have notx yet received the Director's consolidated report. He may be reminded demi officially. The accompanying expenditer may issue.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL.
XXXXXJXXXXX 8/2/

Rehabilitation, Hou-sing and
Backward Classes Department/E

The accompg. draft l ett-r is put up for approval.

14/10/55

Sd/- Y.D.JAEE
14/10/

RH&BCD/E

The Director of Backward Class's D.O. letter at page 37C is submitted for information The D.O. reminder at page 33C will be issued on 1/12/55.

26/11/55

Sd/-Y.D.JAEEL,
26/11/

RH&BCD./E

The reference at page 45 C is submitted for information.

2. The superintendent from the D Branch is ommited He was reminded on 3/12/55.

5/12/55.

Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department/E

Submitted wi-th reference to AddlDevelopment Commr.'s note dated the 12/10/1955 and Jt.Secretary's remarks dated the 14/10/Ø1955 below it at papers 5-7 ante.

2/. The D.B.C.W. Bombay State, Poona who was requested to make necessary enquiries on the points raised in the A.D.C.'s note has now replied. His reply will be found at page 55/c. The D.B.C.W. report makes the position clear that there was not much substance in ths complaint about the recovery of excess popular contribution or injustice resulting thereby.

3. The Director has however made a suggestion to avoid any complaint of the above nature in furute. He suggests that a provision may be made, if possi-ble, for insisting on the village Committees to obtain pro-rate share of contribution fromthose villagers who would be benefitted directly by these works". The village Comm-ittees may be asked to maintain accounts of wages paid to labourers etc and instructed not eo to employ outside labur at a rate lower than the sanctioned rate without the permissionof the Collrs. and iii) Local Revenue Officers may be allowed to check such accounts maintained by Village Committees with a view to see that the B. C.s. are nor exploited in any way.

The suggestion is for orders of Govenment.

The noted at pages. 1-8 /N may please be seen..

2. It will be clear from the Dir's letter that so far there has been no occassion for any specifie complaint of unfair treatment to Backwa d Classes in the working of N.E.S. programme. This may be made clear to the members of the T.A. Council in the ensuring meeting to be held on the 24/3/1956.

MKP.28.

3. The suggestions made in para 3 of the Dir's letters are based on the assumption that it is possible that injustice may be done to the Backward Classes under the NES programme. We cannot proceed on such hypothetical basis. By accepting his suggestions we are likely to make the working of N.E.S. programme more difficult. The suggestions may not be accepted.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
23/2/56.

Joint Secy.

Please DS/ discuss Dy.M & Jt.Secy.

MKP.28

Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department/

The Papers are submitted for discussion with Dy-M(BCD) and M(BCD).

Sd/- Y.D.JAEE.
31/5/56-

Rehabil-itation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department.

This was discussed by M(BCD) with Joint Secretary.

2, M(BCD) desi-red tha a Press Note stating that the all allegations of unfair treatment to the Backward ~~Classes~~ classes in Community DEvelopment and N.E.S. works are unfounded may be issued. The accompanying Press Note may accordingly issue from the Director of Publicity.

3. M(BCD) abserved thatcomplaints had reached him that the drinking water wells contructed by the C.D.and NES Administrtion were away from Harijan localities andwere ~~x~~ in some cases not thrown open to the Harijans. He desired that discreet inquiries may be made in the matter. The accompanying circular to the Backward Class Welfare Offi cers may issue.

4. The ADC may first see these papers for a information and remarks if any.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
3/7/56.

Inquiries proposed to be made in para 3 above may not be confirmed to wells constructed under the L.D,CD,& N.E.S. Schemes, b ut extended to all wells constricted under the village water supplu scheme also.

Sd/.-

MKP.28 8

Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department, /E

Submitted with reference to ~~Accountant General's~~ A.G's

note dated the 3/7/1956

2. ~~In~~ draft press note at 57-C and the draft circular letter ~~dxkxx~~ at 59-C as slightly amended as per advice of the A.D.C. may now issue.

3. These papers may perhaps be submitted to M(RH&BCD) & C.M. for information before issue of the drafts.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
16/7
A.S.

RH&BCD/E

No. 42293.

~~Sx~~ The press note incured by the D of P ~~in~~ is submitted for information.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL

MKP.28

No.MBC 3055/44771-E
Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department,
Sachivalaya, Foreshore Road,
Bombay-1- 17th October 1955.

To

The D.B.C.W.Poo-na,.

Subject:- T.A.Council

Fifth meeting of-
Execution of development works in
Backward Areas.

....

In fifth meeting ot the Tribes Advisory Council held on 24/9/1955, Several comapl-aints were made in regard to the manner in which local development works were bei-ng executed in the Backward Areas. In particular, the following allegations were made:-

1) Popular contribution is being recovered from the Backward Classes in the locality a the same rate as generally very poor, it is unfair to tax them to the same extent as the other villagers who are relatively welloff. The contribution should be based on the capacity of the in ividual villagers to bear their share.

is recovered from other Villagers. The B.Cs being

omit.

2) Where the Backware Classes are unable to pay their contribution in Cash, they are asked to pay contribution in the form of labour. They are employed as paid labourers but are not given full wages. Generally living a hand to mouth existence, underpayment of wages causes them considerable hardships.

50% of the normal wages are paid to them and the remaining 50% were treated as their contribution. As the B.Cs were generally

3) In many cases, labour is imported from outside. The imported labourers in many cases belongs to the Backward Classes. They are also paid less than the normal wages and the difference between the normal wages and the ~~difference~~ wages

actually paid to them is treated as thei contribution. This is fundamentally contrary to the popular contribution scheme. [omit] The idea underlying the scheme is that thepopular contri bution should co me forth from the villagers in the locality who are expected to be benefited under the works. To recover contibution by underpaying outside labourers who cannot be expected to derive any benefit from such works amounts to their exploitation.

4. Most of the Backward Classes a e landless labourers. The Direct benefit of so-me local works like tanks and bandharas accrued to persons who owned land and not to the farm labourers. To recover contribution from such farm labourers by underpayment of wages amounted to their explortation.

2. Before Government orders are obtained on the above suggestions, you are requested to collect and submit information to Govt. on the following points within a forthight.

1) Whether the Director of Backward Classes Welfare has received or come to know of any such cases and, if so, how many and from what places?

2) Whether the District B.C.W.Os. have received or come to know of any such cases and if so, how many, andat what places? What action, if any was taken by them in respect of such complaints and with what results?

3) The District B.C.W.Os. should be asked to contact the members of the Tribes Advisory Council from their respective districts and obtain from them lists of cases in which the backward classes were exploited or harassed and, after making

2)after making personal enquiries into such cases, ~~cases~~, send a report to Government through the Collector of the District and you, an advance copy being sent direct to this Department within a fortnight.Your expost should be submitted to this Department within a fortnight.

Sd/-

(Y.D.JAEE.)
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay
Rehabilitation,Housing and
Backward Classes Department.

MKP.28.8

D.O.No.MBC 3055/44771-E
Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department,
Sachivalaya, Foreshore Road,
Bombay-1- 3 November 1955.

Kindly refer to Government letter, Rehabilitation, Housing and Backward Classes Department, No, MBC-3066/44771-E of 17th October 1955 regarding execution of development works in the Backward Classes areas

So far no advancy copy of the report asked for in the last para of that letter has been received in this Department from any Backward Class Welfare Officer. May I know whether necessary instructions were issued to the concerned B.C.W.Os and when your consolidited report may be expected to be received in this Department.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Y.D.DAEEL
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
R.H.& B.C.D.

Shri D.B.KAMBLE, I.A.S.,
Director of Backward Class Welfare, POONA.

MKP.28.8

No. AM/XIII-36/5
POONA 16th February 1956.

To

The Joint Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Rehabilitation, Housing and Backward Classes Deptt. —
BOMBAY. I

L Tribes Advisory Council 5th meeting off/ execution of development work in backward areas.

Subject :- L

Reference Government letter, Rehabilitation, Housing and Backward Classes Department, No, MBC 3055/44771-E dated the 17th October 1955, on the subject mentioned above.

2. The information called for in para 2 of the Government letter under reference is as under :-

i) No complaint has been received by this office.

ii) No such complaint has been received from the Backward Class welfare Officers also. The Collectors of the districts containing Scheduled Areas have also not received any such complaints.

iii) The Backward Class Welfare Officers were asked to contact the members of the Tribs Advisory Council and obtain from them lists of cases in which the Backward Classes were exploited or harassed. The position in the various districts as was ascertained from the people by the Backward Class Welfare Officers is given below:-

(a) Panch Mahals:- No actual cases of hardships can be given. The complaint is on principle. In the execution of tank works, in Hanpur village, Tal Santrampur, and some works in the Lunavada Taluka during 1953-54, the labour employed was from outside, and consequently it received only 75 per cent of the sanctioned rates of wages. That means that village committees did not contribute their share towards the works.

(b) Banaskantha District:- Four Backward Class persons

Class persons who were engaged by the village committee for village-Mandori (Santpur), Tal. Abu Road, Tank Excavation, have been paid only 50 per cent, of the wages due to them. As the labourers have not returned the impliments, only half the wages have been paid the underpayment seems bona fide. These are not the normal cases of underpayment of wages.

(c) Broach district. :- No actual cases of hardships can be cited. Some labourers were imported from outside. Popular contribution was recovered from the Backward Classes at the same rate as from other villagers. But in the case of Backward Classes, it was recovered in the form of labour. The Collector says that the contribution was in a voluntary basis.

(d) Nasik District:- No specific cases of hardship can e mentioned . It seems that in the past, the popular contribution was recovered from the Backward Classes as well as non Backward Classes at the same rate even in Backward Areas. The popular contribution was recovered in the form oflabour.

(e) Ahmednagar district:- No specific complaint of underpayment of wages or exploitation has been received. It is true that labourers were being paid at Rs--/8/- a day. This was not in the form of wages, but it was by way of some help.Morever people were working only for about 5 hours a day.There was no discrimination between age groups. The Sarvodaya Kendra is in Akola taluka which contains a considerable unmber of Scheduled Tribes. All Devel-opment works are being carried out by the efforts of ~~Advisis~~ Adivasis and as such there is no scope for discrimination. All contribution was voluntary.

~~(xx)~~x

In all other districts, no complaints of under payment of wages or exploitation have been received.

3/. From the above information, it is seen that this is a matter of the past. Under Government ~~Reduction~~ Resolution, political and Services Department, No.IWP.1054 dated the 27/6/1955, Government have directed that in Backward ℄ Areas when 50 ℅, Popular contribution is not forthcoming for development works, at-least 20% direct contribution can be taken into consideration, and if the works involve manual labour, higher than 20 %, then such higher percentage of manual labour can be treated as voluntary popular contribution.

Although no specific complaint has been received, it is a question of principle rather than of individual grivances. In order to correct that the position, provision may please be made, if possible, for insisting on the village committees to obtain pro-rata share of contribution from those villagers who would be benefited directly by these works. The village committees may be asked to maintain accounts of wages paid to labourers, etc. and instructed not to employ outside labour at a rate lower than sanctioned rate without the permission of the collector.Local Revenue Officers, may be allowed to check such accounts maintained by village committees with a view to see that the Backward Class persons are not exploited in any way.

4/. Orders of Government , when passed, may be communicated to this office.

Sd/-
Director of Backward Class Welfare,
Bombay ~~Subaben~~ State, POONA.

15/9/

MKP.28/8

PRESS NOTE.

Certain allegations of unfair treatment to Backward Classes In the exeruciton of works under the L-ocal Develppment Works Programme had come to the notice of Government. In particular it was alleged that-

(1) Popular contribution ~~may~~ was being recovered from Backward Classes in the locality at the same rate as is recovered from other villagers. The Backward Classes being generally very poor, it is is unfair to tax them to the same extent as the other cillagers who are relatively well-off

(2) Where the Backward Classes are unable to pay their contribution in cash, they are asked to pay contribution in the cash, they are asked to pay contribution in the form of labour They are employed as paid labourers, but are not given full wages Generally 50% of the normal wages are paid to them and the remaining 50% are treated as their contibution. As th backward Classes are generally living a hand to mouth existence, underpayment of wages causes them considerable hardships.

(3) In many cases, labour is ~~m~~imported from outside. These imported labourers in many cases belongs to the B.C. They are also paid less than the normal wages and the difference between normal wage and the wages actually paid to them is treated as their contribution. This is fundanentally contrary to the popular contributio scheme. ~~To recovery to the popular contribution scheme. To recovery to the popular contribution scheme.~~ To recovery contribution by underpaying outside labourers who cannot

cannot be expected to derive any benefit from such works amount to their exploitation.

(4) Most of the Backward Classes are landless labourer. The direct benefit of some local works like tanks and bandharas accrued to persons who own land and not to the farm labourers. To recover contribution from such farm labourers by underpayment of wages amounts to their exploitation.

Government had detailed enquiries made into these allegations through the District B.C.W.Os. These enquiries reveal that the allegations are not true and that no specific case of unfair treatment to the Backward Classes has been proved.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
3/7/56

No.MBC 30 55/44771-E
Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department,
Sachivalaya, Foreshore Road,
Bombay 1- 30th July 1956.

Forwarded to to the Director of Publicity Bombay with a request to give necessary publicity in press.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Bombay

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

MKP.28.8

CONFIDENTIAL

No. MBC 3055/44771-E
Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department,
Sachivalaya, Foreshore Road,
Bombay-1- 28th July 1956.

To

All Backward Class Welfare Officers.

Subject:- Access to wells constructed under the Community Development and National Extension Service programme to the Harijans.

....

Government has been receiving complainings that in many cases in Harijans have not been able to get the benefit of the wells constructed under the Community Development. National Extension Service, and the village Water Supply Scheme programmes or under the Local Development Works Programme with popular contribution from the vilagers (including the Scheduled Castes). This may have happened because the wells are situated away from Harijan localities or because there is opposition from local villagers to the use of the wells by the Harijans. The Backward Class Welfare Officers are therefore requested to visit such wells and report to the Director within two months whether the Harijans do in fact derive benefit therefrom. It is necessary to make discrete inquiried into the matter since the villagersmay not openly admit that Harijans are denied access to these wells and since Harijans through fear may say that they are given access to these wells though in fact they are denied the use thereof.

Sd/- Y.D.JAEEL
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Rehabilitation, Housing and
Backward Classes Department.

Copy forwarded for information to:-

The Political and Services Department,
The District Superintendent-Magistrate,
The Director of Backward Class Welfare.

MKP.20.8

No.PN/DP 30997
Director of Publicity.
Sachivalaya, Bombay.1.
Dated the 6th August 1956.

From

The Director of Publicity,
Government of Bombay, Bombay.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Government,
Rehabilitation, Housing and Backward
Classes Depa tment, Bombay.

With reference to Government endorsement No MBC 3055/44771 -E of 30th July 1956 I am forwarding herewit a copy of Press Note No P-1090 issued by this Directorate on the 4th August 1956

Sd/- News Editor,
for Director of Publicity.

MKP.30.8

P-1090
4-8-56(1- 30-P.M)

With the compliments of the
Director of Publicity,
Government of Bombay, Bombay

BACKWARD CLASSES AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

Allegation of Unfair Treatment Denied.

Certain allegations of unfair treatment to Backward in the execution of works under the local Development works programme and had come to the notice of Government, in particular it was alleged that (1) popular contribution was being recovered from the Backward Classes in the locality at the same rate as is recovered from other villagers. The Backward Classes being generally very poor, it is unfair to tax them to the same extent as the other villagers who are relatively well off, (2) where the Backward Classes are unable to pay their contribution in cash, ~~where the Backwar-~~ they are asked to pay contribution in the form of labour. They are employed as paid labourers, but are not given full wages. Generally 50% of the normal wages are paid to them and the remaining 50% are treated ~~of the noarnl wages a e paid to the m and the remaining 50% are treated~~ as their contribution. As the Backward Classes are generally living a hand-to mouth existence, underpayment of wages causes them considerable hardships; (3) In many cases, labour is imported from outside. These imported labourers in many cases belonging to Backward Class. They are also paid less than the normal wages and the difference between the normal wages and the wages actually paid to them is treated as their con-tribution. This is fundamentally contrary to the popular contribution ~~scheme.~~ To recover contribution by underpaying outside labourers who cannot be expected to derive any benefit ~~of such local~~ works amounts to their exploitation; and ~~works amounts to this exploitation and (4) most of the Backward Classes are landless labourers. The directed benefit~~

and (4) Most of the Backward Classes are landless labourers. The direct benefit of some local works like tanks ad bandharas accrues to persons who own land and not to the farm labourers. To recover contribution from such farm labourers by underpayment of wages amounts fo their exploitation.

Government had detailed enquiries made into these allegations through the District Backward Class Welfare Officers. These enquiries reveal that the allegations are not true and that no specific case of unfair treatment to the Backward Classes has been proved.